

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the section entitled "Abstract of the Disclosure" beginning on page 33 at line 5 with the following replacement section:

-- ~~The invention enables identification~~ Identification of starting and ending times of commercial breaks, ~~as well as starting and ending times of~~ and commercials within those commercial breaks ~~[[, to be]]~~ found in audiovisual content is disclosed ~~(e.g., a television broadcast) using a method having characteristics which overcome disadvantages of previous commercial detection approaches. The invention is implemented as a~~ A solution to a "batch optimization" problem is used in which commercial locations within a set of audiovisual content are detected as a group by choosing a set of commercial locations which optimizes a cost function which can include considerations of, for example, 1) one or more ~~of many types of~~ visual recording, audio recording ~~and/or closed-captioned cues~~, 2) relative locations of commercials within the audiovisual content, and/or 3) probability models based on statistics obtained regarding characteristics of typical commercial and commercial breaks ~~(e.g., commercial and commercial break duration, separation times of commercials and commercial breaks, likelihood of the presence of a commercial at any given time in a set of audiovisual content).~~ Optimization can be done over the total set of commercial location decisions, rather than on a per-commercial basis. Additionally, the cost function can be iteratively evaluated, ~~increasing the accuracy of commercial location decisions produced by the method. Additionally,~~ and many more types of cues and combinations of cues can be used in detection of commercials ~~in accordance with the invention than have been used in other approaches to commercial detection.~~ --